

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 SSO-00 ISO-00 ACDE-00 USIE-00 AEC-11

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0280

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: PROGRESS IN MC 224

1. OUR CONTACTS HERE WITH BRUSSELS INDICATE THAT IN THE MC 224 CONFERENCE, A MAJORITY LED BY FRG, TURKS AND ITALIANS IS MOVING DESPITE UK AND US RESISTANCE TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE OF INCREASED ESTIMATES OF PACT FORCE STRUCTURE WHICH COULD IN TURN LEAD TO HIGHER ESTIMATES OF AGGREGATE PACT MANPOWER. WE BELIEVE THAT INFLATED ESTIMATES OF TOTAL PACT MANPOWER NOT SUPPORTED BY DATA AVAILABLE TO US AND UK WOULD BE MORE DAMAGING TO NATO MBFR POSTURE AT THIS JUNCTURE THAN A DELAY IN AVAILABILITY TO AD HOC GROUP

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OF NATO-AGREED DATA ON PACT FORCES. IF MOVE BY FRG,

TURKS AND ITALIANS IN MC 224 LOOKS AS THOUGH IT WOULD RESULT IN SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER AGGREGATES, US MBFR DELEGATION WOULD FAVOR A US DECISION TO TAKE A RESERVATION ON THE MC 224 OUTCOME PENDING REVIEW OF PERTINENT DATA. WE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND BRITISH BE ENCOURAGED TO DO LIKEWISE.

2. EVEN IF REVISED NATO-AGREED DATA ON PACT FORCE TOTALS DOES NOT BECOME AVAILABLE NOW TO AD HOC GROUP, WE BELIEVE ALLIES IN VIENNA SHOULD NONETHELESS BE AUTHORIZED TO MENTION TO EAST THE REVISED TOTAL FOR NATO GROUND FORCES WHILE STATING THAT NATO CONTINUES TO REVIEW ITS HOLDINGS ON PACT GROUND FORCES. THIS APPROACH WOULD (A) MAINTAIN AUTHORITATIVENESS OF WEST'S DATA ON NATO FORCES; (B) REAFFIRM TO THE EAST NATO'S PERCEPTION OF THE DISPARITY IN GROUND FORCES; (C) AVOID EMBARRASSMENT ARISING FROM PACT ACCESS TO PUBLISHED DATA ON NATO FORCES, PARTICULARLY LATEST IISS FIGURES, WHICH ARE CLOSE TO REVISED NATO TOTAL; (D) AVOID POTENTIAL EASTERN CLAIMS OF BEING MISLED ON DATA; AND (E) MAINTAIN THE WEST'S PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE IN BEING MORE FORTHCOMING.

3. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE USNATO SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO PRESS FOR RELEASE TO EAST ONLY OF REVISED TOTAL OF NATO GROUND FORCES TOGETHER WITH STATEMENT ON CONTINUED REVIEW OF PACT FORCES AS A COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO MEET AD HOC GROUP'S REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO TRANSMIT TO EAST REVISED TOTALS FOR BOTH NATO AND PACT FORCES. RESOR

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